REMARKS

Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 1-2, 5 and 7-12 will be pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 2 are amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claims 3 and

4, respectively. Claims 3, 4 and 6 are now canceled.

Entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested along with reconsideration and review

of the claims on the merits.

Formal Matters

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgement of Applicants' claim for foreign

priority and receipt of certified copies of the priority documents. Applicants also appreciate the

Examiner's consideration of the Information Disclosure Statements filed January 5, 2004, and

April 16, 2004.

Response to Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as assertedly being

unpatentable over EP 1213331, for the reasons given in the Office Action.

B. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as assertedly being

unpatentable over EP 1375608 in view of EP 1213331, for the reasons given in the Office

Action.

Applicants respond as follows.

5

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

U.S. Appln. No.: 10/750,863

Atty. Docket No.: Q79274

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 3, 4 and 6 are objected to as

being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent

form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicants incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claims 3 and 4 into

Claims 1 and 2, respectively.

Neither EP '331 alone nor EP '331 combined with EP '608 render obvious the present

invention regarding, for example, the allowable subject matter from original Claims 3 and 4.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the

obviousness rejections and allowance of Claims 1-2, 5 and 7-12.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed

to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is

kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Registration No. 48,409

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC

Telephone: (202) 293-7060

Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 28, 2005

6